

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
November 6, 2006**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
Western District of Kentucky**

**Contact: Sandy Focken
(502) 582-5911**

**LOUISVILLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING WITH INTENT TO
DISTRIBUTE POWDER COCAINE AND 50 GRAMS OR MORE OF CRACK
COCAINE**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **JA'MEL TRAMONT SMITHERS**, age 23, of 5205 Russett Blvd. #8, Louisville, Kentucky, **pled guilty** to two charges of violating federal drug laws. He pled guilty to possessing with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more of a substance or mixture of cocaine base, that is, "crack cocaine." **Smithers** also pled guilty to one count of possessing with the intent to distribute a mixture or substance of a detectable amount of cocaine.

Smithers faces a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 20 years. He faces maximum potential penalties of life imprisonment, an \$8,000,000.00 fine, and not less than 10 years' supervised release. The Court may impose supervised release for the rest of **Smithers'** life. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.**

Smithers pled guilty to the drug charges pursuant to a Plea Agreement. He admitted, in open court and through the Plea Agreement, that on June 22, 2005, a Kentucky Probation and Parole Officer conducted a home visit. She initiated the visit following her receipt of information that

-- MORE --

Smithers had rented a motel room in which marijuana had been found packaged for sale. The Kentucky Probation and Parole Officer and a Louisville Metro Police (LMPD) Sergeant made the home visit. When they knocked on the door, **Smithers** invited them inside. Officers immediately smelled the odor of burnt marijuana. The Probation and Parole Officer, along with another Probation Officer, conducted a walk-through of the apartment and discovered a partially burnt marijuana blunt and a digital scale with white powder residue on **Smithers'** dresser in his bedroom.

The Probation and Parole Officer advised **Smithers** that she believed she had reasonable grounds to believe he was in violation of his probation and was going to conduct a more thorough search. Officers found a shoebox in the corner of the bedroom behind a chest. Inside the box, they found a pair of pants with three stacks of \$1,000 bundled and five bags of suspected cocaine powder - each weighing approx. 3 ounces. A search of a closet revealed approximately 2 ounces of suspected crack cocaine, a small bag of marijuana, \$120 in the pocket of a pair of jeans, and \$495 in a pants pocket of pants on the floor. The pants on the floor also included **Smithers'** Kentucky driver's license and other documents in **Smithers'** name.

Law enforcement submitted the suspected cocaine and cocaine base for chemical analysis. The Kentucky State Police Laboratory conducted the examination and prepared a report which indicated that the suspected cocaine base tested positive for cocaine base. The report showed a weight of 58.45 grams for the cocaine base. Forensic examination of the suspected powder cocaine revealed a positive result for cocaine hydrochloride. The report indicated a total weight of 401.26 grams of cocaine. **Smithers** possessed the cocaine and cocaine base (*i.e.*, "crack" cocaine), with the intent to distribute the substances.

-- MORE --

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless. The Louisville Metropolitan Police Department, Kentucky Department of Probation and Parole, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives conducted the investigation.

Smithers is scheduled to be sentenced on February 2, 2007, at 3:30 p.m., before United States District Judge Charles R. Simpson, III., in Louisville, Kentucky.

- END -

DLH:JEL:061103